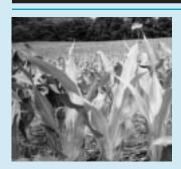
# June-July 1998/AGO-252

# AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK







#### Economics Editor Dennis A. Shields (202) 694-5331 dshields@econ.ag.gov

#### Associate Editors Mary Reardon (202) 694-5322 Anne B. W. Effland (202) 694-5319

#### Managing Editor Dale Simms (202) 694-5137

#### Assistant Editor Deana Kussman (202) 694-5123

Art Director Victor Phillips, Jr.

#### Statistical Coordinator David Johnson (202) 694-5324

Design, Layout, Charts Cynthia Ray

Tabular Composition
Cliola Peterson

#### 2 Briefs

Field Crops: Grain & Soybean Prices Forecast Lower in 1998/99

Livestock, Dairy & Poultry: Large U.S. Meat & Poultry Production in 1999

Specialty Crops: Dry Bean Plantings Up for 1998, but Little Change in Potato Acreage • Prices Could Rise for Some Stone Fruits This Summer

Taking Measure of the Dollar's Value: New Exchange Rate Indexes

# 10 Commodity Spotlight

U.S. Red Meat & Poultry Markets in a Global Setting

Joel Greene & Leland Southard

# 13 Food Safety

Food Safety Technology: A Potential Role for Ozone?

Alex Majchrowicz

### 16 Farm Finance

Farm Credit Use Up for 6th Straight Year

Jerome Stam & James Ryan

### 20 Resources & Environment

Agriculture & Wetlands: Is "No Net Loss" Achievable?

Ralph Heimlich

# 24 Special Article

Livestock Sectors Restructuring in CEE/NIS Countries

Nancy Cochrane, Britta Bjornlund, & Olga Liefert

# Statistical Indicators

- 29 Summary
- 30 U.S. & Foreign Economic Data
- 32 Farm Prices
- 34 Producer & Consumer Prices
- **36** Farm-Retail Price Spreads
- 38 Livestock & Products
- 42 Crops & Products

- 46 World Agriculture
- 47 U.S. Agricultural Trade
- 50 Farm Income
- **55** Food Expenditures
- **55** Transportation
- 56 Indicators of Farm Productivity
- 57 Food Supply & Use

**Published** by the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Materials may be reprinted without permission. Current and back issues are available on the ERS website on the Internet at www.econ.ag.gov/epubs/pdf/agout/ao.htm

Contents have been approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board and the summary released May 20, 1998. Price and quantity forecasts for crops are based on the May 12 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates.

Subscriptions: \$50 per year (\$100 to foreign address, including Canada). Order from ERS-NASS, 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, VA 22161. Or call 1-800-999-6779 or 1-703-605-6220). Checks payable to ERS-NASS. For free email subscription (text only): Send message "subscribe agricultural-outlook" (no quotes or subject title) to usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu

**The next issue** (AGO-253) is scheduled for mailing on August 5, 1998. If not delivered by August 24, call (202) 694-5123 (please have mailing label handy). The full text will also be distributed electronically; call (202) 694-5050 for further information.

Cover photo: Grant Heilman Photography.